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8_20_2013 Minutes

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

Tuesday, August 20, 2013 @ 7:00 PM

Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM on the second floor of the Town Hall on Tuesday, August 20, 2013.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Shirley Canniff, Don Vitters, and Jim Robillard. Jen Rothenberg was not present. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Members of the public included Adria Arch.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of July 25, 2013 were tabled until the next meeting.

Open Forum – Public Comments

No public comments.

Adria Arch – Menotomy Rocks Park Public Art

Adria Arch, Chair of Arlington Public Art, proposed to be the Artist-in-Residence at Menotomy Rocks Park for one year. Ms. Arch feels that an Artist-in-Residence program will enhance and draw awareness to the park as well as respect the park's community and its many natural resources. The program will allow creative artists to explore and display their visual art in a focused period of time with a specific place or theme throughout the park. Ms. Arch would also like to present a series of one or two-day viewing events throughout the year that would be advertised, as well as presenting lectures about her projects. Ms. Arch will be requesting funding for this program from the Arlington Cultural Council to cover materials and labor. Ms. Arch is looking for the Commission to approve the program for one year.

Ms. Mayer stated that the Commission has been very supportive of public art projects in the parks, but is concerned with the duration of the program as proposed and would like to see a more formal plan of the projects themselves. Ms. Mayer feels that perhaps this program is more than what we are ready for and can see this opening competition for space from the many artists that live in town.

Ms. Canniff complimented Ms. Arch on her ideas. Ms. Canniff expressed her concern about the program being open ended and would also like to see a scaled back plan.

Mr. Connelly will contact Town Council to discuss liability in the event art is stolen or damaged.

The Commission would like the program duration shortened to perhaps a season in lieu of a year. They would like Ms. Arch to come back to the Commission with an idea or two more detailed, and Mr. Connelly will discuss liability with Town Council.

2015 Capital Improvement Recommendations

Mr. Connelly discussed FY2015 Capital Improvements which include Spy Pond Tennis Courts and Magnolia Field Basketball Court, as well as funding for ADA Plan Implementation.

Mr. Connelly feels the Spy Pond Tennis Courts have outlived their useful life and need a complete court renovation. The Magnolia Field Basketball Court needs a court renovation as well.

Requests for Capital funds are due at the end of August.

Capital Improvement Update

Florence Avenue Playground – Mr. Connelly attended the site meeting and everything is on schedule. When the original plans were drawn up, a drain by the zip-line was marked as an active drain and water source, but was discovered to be abandoned. Another catch basin will need to be put in and will tie into the drain and a copper pipe will need to be run around the side of the playground. There has also been additional tree pruning needed. Approximate cost for this work will be \$8,000. Because of these additional expenses, the sign design will be put on hold until the end of the project.

The Commission discussed the color scheme of the rubberized surface. Mr. Connelly had samples of a mixture of blues and grays. Ms. Canniff will take samples and make the final decision on the color scheme.

Buck Field Renovation – N/A

Capital Request for FY2014 – ADA Study, Hibbert and North Union Spray Pool.

A request for proposal for a landscape architect went out for both Hibbert Playground and North Union Spray Pool. Proposals are due August 30, 2013 and will be reviewed at the next meeting. CBA will not be providing a proposal; currently they have a full schedule.

Ms. Mayer and Mr. Connelly will meet to write up specifications for the ADA Study.

Special Requests

Waldo Park Movie Night Request – Movie night is scheduled for Saturday, September 7, 2013 from 5:30 PM until 9:30 PM with a rain date of Saturday, September 21st. The Commission has no issues with this request. Ms. Canniff motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 4-0.

Memorial Tree at Robbins Farm Park — A request was made for the planting of a heritage tree in Robbins Farm Park in memory of Brian Murray who was a member of the Town's Tree Committee. The question about caring for the tree was discussed. Mr. Connelly will look at the Gift Policy. The Commission supports the request and thinks it is a wonderful and appropriate tribute, however, location and maintenance will need to be discussed further.

Gloria Cushing McClenen Park Bench Discussion – The location of the bench has been approved as well as the type of bench and wording of the plaque. Ms. Canniff motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 4-0.

Off Leash Dog Review – A new Animal Control Officer has been hired and is interested in meeting with the Commission at a future date.

Rink and Recreation Update

Kid Care After School Program is going very well. Approximately 60 kids are enrolled to date.

The 6th Annual Arlington Recreation Golf Tournament is scheduled for Friday, September 13, 2013.

The creation of an Ed Burns Arena Subcommittee to review options for a new facility was discussed. The Commission agreed to create a subcommittee with representatives from each of the user groups, including one to represent the interests of public skating/community uses, to discuss another sheet of ice and to look for a long-term common goal.

Other Business

Mr. Connelly included a copy of the Field Permit Policy. A draft policy will be sent to representatives. Mr. Connelly will talk to Town Council about non-profit and for profit groups and about whether they can be treated differently and what information the Commission can request from them.

Ms. Canniff motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation

